

MOE Proposed Rules – DPI’s Comments

On September 18, 2013, the U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in the Federal Register on changes the agency plans to make to the IDEA regulations regarding LEA Maintenance of Effort Eligibility and Compliance. Please visit http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_grt-moe to watch our overview webinar on the proposed rules. In addition, the comments DPI will be submitting through www.regulations.gov can be downloaded from <http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/files/sped/pdf/wdpi-moe-nprm-comments.pdf>. We encourage everyone to stay informed, watch the webinar and read our comments. Any individual can submit comments on the proposed rules at www.regulations.gov.

Special Education High Cost Web-Based Claim System Open

The High Cost Aid claiming program is accessed through the Special Education web portal. Select “Special Education High Cost Claims” from the application menu. Claims are due January 10, 2014.

The Special Education High Cost Aid program is intended to assist eligible applicants with meeting the costs of educating certain students with disabilities who require very costly services. The aid is based on the prior year’s expenses and is funded with a combination of state categorical aid and funds awarded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Expenses are calculated on a per student basis and include costs directly related to the education of a student with high cost special education needs. Claims for expenses incurred during 2012-2013 will be due January 10, 2014. The funds are paid to eligible recipients in June 2014 for 2012-2013 costs.

A student meets the definition of high cost if it is determined that the amount of direct special education service costs generated by the student is more than \$30,000 after special education categorical aid amounts are deducted. Only costs associated with direct educational services provided to the student qualify for aid. Costs associated with administration or overhead are not eligible for reimbursement. Additional information on eligible costs can be viewed on the High Cost Aid technical assistance page: http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_highcost. Kathy Guralski (kathryn.guralski@dpi.wi.gov) is the lead and questions on high cost claims should be directed to her attention, or Marge Schenk at marjorie.schenk@dpi.wi.gov.

Special Education High Cost Web-Based Claim System Update (sent 11-27-13 as a follow-up)

Now that the Special Education High cost Web-Based Claim System is open, we have started receiving questions and as a result have tweaked a few things in the program. We have added to the drop down list O&M Purchased Instructional Services, VI Purchased Instructional Services, HI Purchased Instructional Services and ESY Purchased Instructional Services. We originally included these for a teacher, but did not provide a drop down choice for a service that is purchased (function 436000).

It has also come to our attention that purchased services/tuition that are contracted/paid for with a CESA are almost always eligible for special education state categorical aid. These costs are claimed by the CESA, and reimbursement from DPI is made to the CESA. The CESA then transfers the state categorical aid received to the district. When including these types of costs, report them as a project code 011. This way the appropriate calculation in determining the \$30,000 threshold, and cost eligible for high cost aid, will be made taking into consideration state categorical aid received.

Just a reminder that the purposes of the high cost aid program is to help offset costs of students who generate expenditures above those of the average student with a disability. Prorated costs attributable to all students with disabilities are within the \$10,000 baseline. If there is no description in the drop down for the item you are trying to claim, it is because the cost is included in the \$10,000 baseline. Items put into a student claim that are not eligible (for instance, selecting “Autism Direct Services” but then putting “Audiology Services” in the description line) will result in the entire claim being disapproved. Only situations where the costs are considerably higher than what is expected for a student with a disability (for instance, \$10,000 for speech / language therapy for one student) may be added as an administrative add-on. That request is to be made to Kathy Guralski at kathy.guralski@dpi.wi.gov